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MEDIA ADVISORY

WHO: Local Emergency Planning Committee, City Staff, Corpus Christi Fire Department

WHAT: LEPC will provide details on the upcoming neighborhood canvassing effort of more than 1,500 homes near the industrial area along IH-37

WHEN: Friday, March 23 at 9 a.m. (CST)

WHERE: Corpus Christi Fire Department Main Building; 2406 Leopard Street; Floor 4th Floor EOC

Local Emergency Planning Committee Plans Door-to-Door Survey of 1,500 Homes; *Communications Between Residents and Refineries a Top Priority*

(CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas) - The Corpus Christi/Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is announcing a Neighborhood Canvassing Project that will reach more than 1,500 homes in neighborhoods located within a **one** mile radius of industry along Interstate 37.

The canvassing will begin on Saturday, March 31 in the Hillcrest neighborhood followed by Dona Park, Academy Heights, Arlington Heights, Solar Estates, and Douglas Estates neighborhoods. Residents in these neighborhoods will begin receiving a postcard with details in both English and Spanish on the canvassing effort. The first wave of postcards will be mailed out today.

"We want residents to know that we have been listening to their concerns. Our industry partners have also been listening and we all want to make sure that we have a sustainable communications plan in place so that everyone is notified if a serious incident occurs at an industrial facility," said LEPC administrator Maricela Cuevas. "This also gives us a chance to talk one-on-one with the residents of these neighborhoods and gather new ideas on how we can better assist and communicate with those living near the industry."

The objectives of the Neighborhood Canvassing Project are as follows:

- Gain critical information from industrial neighbors to improve communications in the event of chemical emergency
- Listen to concerns of neighbors regarding neighborhood issues with local industry
- Evaluate current tools and protocol used to communicate with industrial neighbors
- Consider new tools and communications to improve dialogue and relationships with neighbors
- Work to establish a higher degree of trust with neighbors living near local industry

"LEPC hopes that the community will support our efforts. This is a positive step in the right direction. There have been smaller surveys done recently of these neighborhoods, but nothing quite this large in scale," Cuevas said. "Our number one goal with this survey is to discuss communications between residents, first responders and industry."

The two page survey was developed by Louisiana-based Applied Technology Research Corporation. Along with the survey, residents will be invited to neighborhood meetings in April and May to learn about current communications systems in place, such as Nixle. The automated system currently has more than 600 people signed up to receive alerts via text, e-mail or phone on incidents occurring in local industrial facilities.

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